

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

**Seventy-Third Session
April 15, 2005**

The Committee on Ways and Means was called to order at 8:09 a.m., on Friday, April 15, 2005. Chairman Morse Arberry Jr. presided in Room 3137 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. [Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda. All exhibits are available and on file at the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Morse Arberry Jr., Chairman
Ms. Chris Giunchigliani, Vice Chairwoman
Mr. Mo Denis
Mrs. Heidi S. Gansert
Mr. Lynn Hettrick
Mr. Joseph M. Hogan
Mrs. Ellen Koivisto
Ms. Sheila Leslie
Mr. John Marvel
Ms. Kathy McClain
Mr. Richard Perkins
Mr. Bob Seale
Mrs. Debbie Smith
Ms. Valerie Weber

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mark Stevens, Assembly Fiscal Analyst
Steve Abba, Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst
Anne Bowen, Committee Secretary
Lila Clark, Committee Secretary

Assembly Bill 175 (1st Reprint): Makes appropriations for various improvements to mental health services, mental health courts and community triage centers. (BDR S-1359)

Chairman Arberry opened the hearing on A.B. 175.

Sheila Leslie, Assemblywoman, Washoe County, District 27, explained that A. B. 175 was called the Mental Health Gap Funding bill in the Committee on Health and Human Services. Ms. Leslie stated the bill was attempting to address hospital emergency room overcrowding, primarily in Las Vegas. Also included in A.B. 175 were provisions for funding for mental health courts and the community triage centers.

Ms. Leslie stated there were basically four components to the bill. Section 1 provided additional money for housing in Las Vegas. Because people had no other place to go, hospital emergency rooms in Las Vegas were overcrowded

with people. Often those people were a danger to themselves and others, according to Ms. Leslie. Those people had been medically screened and the problem was mental health, not medical, yet they remained in hospital emergency room beds because there was no other facility for them. The requested funding in Section 1 was for an additional 90 community residential placements. Ms. Leslie said there were 90 beds requested in The Executive Budget and A.B. 175 would add another 90 beds. She said she believed if people could live in supported housing with someone checking on them and making sure they were taking their medications, it would be less likely they would get into trouble and end up in the hospital. Ms. Leslie remarked that Section 1 pertained to prevention and was designed to keep people with mental health problems out of hospital emergency rooms on a permanent basis.

Section 2 contained \$10 million for crisis beds in the Las Vegas area to fill the gap between the present and when the new hospital was fully completed and opened in December 2006. Ms. Leslie stated the money would be issued through a Request for Proposal (RFP) that was already being written by Dr. Carlos Brandenburg and his staff. A clause had been added in the Committee on Health and Human Services to allow the money to be used in either fiscal year, anticipating that more money would probably be used in the first year. The first beds in the new hospital would be available in May 2006 with the last beds available in December 2006.

Ms. Leslie explained Section 3 was the requested funding for the Clark County Mental Health Court. It was the unfunded decision unit that was in the agency recommendation to the Governor, but was left out of The Executive Budget.

Section 4 was another unfunded decision unit that had been submitted to the Governor's Office for the Washoe County Mental Health Court. Ms. Leslie disclosed that she worked for the Washoe County Mental Health Court during the interim. The money requested in Section 4 of A.B. 175 would flow through the Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services. All the money was to be used to support the Mental Health Court clients through housing and case management. Ms. Leslie commented that the caseload in Washoe County had grown to approximately 200 clients and the funding was intended to provide housing support and keep those people out of jail.

Ms. Leslie said Section 5 would provide funding for the Carson City Mental Health Court which had just been opened. The money was needed for housing support and case management services for the severely mentally ill in the criminal justice system in Carson City.

Section 6 requested ongoing funding for the community triage center in Clark County and Section 7 requested ongoing funding for the community triage center in Washoe County.

Carlos Brandenburg, Ph.D., Administrator, Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services, identified himself for the record, and testified in support of A.B. 175.

Dr. Brandenburg explained that Section 1 of A.B. 175 was basically a mirror image of Decision Unit M-201, with 90 beds requested, 45 in the first year and 45 in the second year.

Dr. Brandenburg stated the request included 21 group homes, 14 supportive living arrangements, 6 intensive supportive living arrangements, and 4 special

need beds for a total of 45 beds the first year of the biennium and 45 beds the second year.

Dr. Brandenburg stated it was extremely important to realize that a hospital bed cost approximately \$389 per day, or \$11,000 per month. Keeping mentally ill people in a group home cost approximately \$527 per month. Dr. Brandenburg said it was very cost-effective to keep people in the community, provide the group home service, and keep them out of the hospital and out of the emergency room. He noted it would be an excellent program to implement while waiting for the new hospital to be built in Las Vegas.

Dr. Brandenburg said that Assemblywoman Leslie, Senator Joseph Heck, and he were working on an RFP for a 50-bed crisis unit that had a medical clearance component. He stated they had worked with the State Purchasing Division on the RFP, it had been released on April 1, 2005, and all proposals were expected to be submitted by May 2, 2005.

Dr. Brandenburg stated that currently the Mental Health Court in Clark County was funded through a grant that would end in September 2005. A.B. 175 proposed funding for 3 service coordinators and 75 clients. Dr. Brandenburg disclosed that 19 percent of the 3,000 inmates in the Clark County Detention Center were mentally ill, and 570 inmates were eligible for the service. The program had been very successful in Washoe County and had been able to keep clients out of jail and keep individuals in the community and out of the hospital, according to Dr. Brandenburg.

Section 4 of A.B. 175 pertained to the growth package for the Washoe County Mental Health Court. Dr. Brandenburg stated Decision Unit E-429 in The Executive Budget had not been funded and provided 40 residential slots for a total of 125 clients for the biennium.

Dr. Brandenburg explained that Section 5 requested funding for the establishment of a mental health court in Carson City. The funding would provide for one full-time employee, with the rest of the funding to be used for supported living arrangements or housing.

Section 6 of A.B. 175 provided partial funding for a community triage center in southern Nevada. Dr. Brandenburg explained that the triage center was to be used for people with a substance abuse problem and/or a non-acute mental illness.

Section 7 of the bill provided funding for a community triage center in northern Nevada. As in southern Nevada, the triage center would serve people with substance abuse problems and/or non-acute mental illness.

Assemblyman Marvel asked how much of the requested funding contained in A.B. 175 was duplication with The Executive Budget. Dr. Brandenburg replied there was no duplication except in Section 1 and that was concerning 90 beds. There were 90 beds recommended in The Executive Budget as well as 90 beds recommended in A.B. 175 for a total of 180 beds.

Assemblywoman Leslie explained that the reason for the additional 90 beds requested in A.B. 175 was because of the severe overcrowding in hospital emergency rooms. Testimony had been given that people were waiting an average of three days for treatment.

Dr. Brandenburg noted that as of yesterday in Clark County, there were 38 individuals waiting an average of 51 hours for services. Dr. Brandenburg commented that there was a seasonal pattern to the need for emergency room services and in spring and early summer the number of patients would begin to rise to 90 or 100 per day. He further stated that it was possible to keep people in the community and out of the emergency rooms if community resources were available. The major needed resource, according to Dr. Brandenburg, was residential housing.

Assemblywoman Giunchigliani commented that she believed A.B. 175 was a good piece of legislation that would help the emergency rooms in southern Nevada as well as the clients who needed help in the mental health area.

Ms. Giunchigliani asked for clarification as to whether the \$5 million requested in Section 2 was still needed.

Dr. Brandenburg suggested that the \$5 million request be used as a "placemat" until the RFP came back which would provide the exact dollar amount. Ms. Giunchigliani inquired as to when the RFPs would be submitted to the State. Dr. Brandenburg replied that the deadline for submission was May 2, 2005.

Mr. Marvel asked if A.B. 175 was passed, would the Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services have to appear before the Interim Finance Committee (IFC) for authorization for any of the funding. Dr. Brandenburg replied that if A.B. 175 was approved as currently written, they would not have to appear before the IFC.

Mr. Marvel asked if the RFPs would have been returned before the Legislature adjourned. Dr. Brandenburg replied it was his hope that the RFPs would be submitted before the Legislature was adjourned so there would be an available dollar amount for the 50-bed unit.

Mr. Marvel asked if the bill would have to be amended up or down, and Dr. Brandenburg replied that it would.

Assemblyman Denis commented that a community triage center had been needed for a long time, and while it cost a lot of money, he believed in the long run there would be savings.

Dan Musgrove, representing Clark County, identified himself for the record, and testified in support of A.B. 175. Mr. Musgrove stated that he believed the bill did everything possible to solve the hospital emergency room crisis in southern Nevada. It would not only help the people who were mentally ill, but would also help the health care system in southern Nevada by lessening the impact on hospital emergency rooms. Mr. Musgrove informed the Committee that the RFP for the triage unit in Clark County would be "on the street" April 28, 2005. That component had been handled at the Committee's request.

Chairman Arberry commented that he was pleased the RFP was going to be issued in a timely manner.

John Tatro, Judge, Carson City Justice and Municipal Court, introduced himself and testified in support of A.B. 175. Judge Tatro said a Mental Health Court had recently been implemented in Carson City. The court was presently operating with 10 to 15 attendees, but many more individuals were waiting for

placement in the program. Judge Tatro emphasized that Carson Mental Health had been instrumental in implementing the mental health court.

Mr. Marvel asked if the Carson-Tahoe Hospital emergency room had the same problem with overcrowding as Clark County and Washoe County hospitals. Judge Tatro replied that while he could not speak for Carson-Tahoe Hospital he was aware that it was a day-to-day problem although not as severe as in Clark County.

Mr. Marvel asked if there was presently any housing for the mentally ill in Carson City. Judge Tatro replied that Carson Mental Health had housing available for other programs, but the Mental Health Court did not, and unless clients were housed they would not become stable.

Rick Loop, representing the Nevada District Judges Association and the Eighth Judicial District Court, introduced himself and testified in support of A.B. 175. Mr. Loop commented that the courts had learned that mental health courts worked, they reduced arrests, and kept people out of jails and prisons. He said if the Legislature chose to appropriate the requested funds, the Nevada District Judges Association and the Eighth Judicial District Court were committed to helping solve the mental health crisis.

Brian Burke, representing the Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center, introduced himself and testified in support of A.B. 175. Mr. Burke said he wanted to commend Assemblywoman Leslie and the Committee on Health and Human Services for drafting the bill, specifically for the increase in community placements. Mr. Burke stated, according to his research, other states had increased supportive living arrangements for individuals with serious mental illness and had saved approximately 30 percent in terms of the amount of money spent on those individuals. Emergency room visits had also decreased by 50 percent and psychiatric inpatient stays had decreased from two and one-half days to zero days after entering supportive living arrangements.

E. J. Maldonado, Washoe County Mental Health Court, introduced himself and testified in support of A.B. 175. Mr. Maldonado stated that the Washoe County Mental Health Court was in full support of the bill because of the opportunities and resources it would create for programs throughout the state. The Washoe County Mental Health Court was currently able to receive up to 30 placements with the legislation that had been passed two years ago. Because of those 30 placements, Mr. Maldonado said the Washoe County Mental Health Court had been able to conduct a case study of the people in the program who utilized the services. Before the mental health program and the supportive living arrangements were implemented there had been 528 inpatient bed days and since the program there had been only 93 inpatient bed days with a cost savings of over \$217,000.

Patrick O'Bryan, Officer, Reno Police Department, introduced himself and testified in support of A.B. 175. Officer O'Bryan stated that last week he had been asked to speak at a conference in Las Vegas that had been organized by the United State Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH). At that conference, Officer O'Bryan had been asked to present a cost analysis that he and his partner had compiled regarding the cost to the community of a few homeless individuals in the city of Reno.

Officer O'Bryan stated he was not a scientist or a statistician, but believed the numbers he was providing would give the Committee a sense of what A.B. 175 would do for the community.

Officer O'Bryan related that when an individual in downtown Reno consumed a great amount of alcohol and fell down in the street it initiated a chain of events in the community in order to care for that individual. If the person was not capable of caring for themselves the ride to the hospital cost \$700. The cost to detox the person in the hospital was anywhere from \$1,200 to \$2,000. If the person had a trauma criteria, which was preexisting diabetes, tendency toward seizures, or an apparent head injury, a trauma workup was initiated that cost \$6,500. Officer O'Bryan pointed out that a \$1.50 bottle of vodka could initiate a cost to the community of \$2,000 to \$10,000.

Officer O'Bryan said that was a theory he and his partner had, but names had to be associated with that theory. They picked two names they were familiar with and went to one of the local hospitals and inquired as to the outstanding cost for care that each individual had received over a one-year period. Officer O'Bryan stated that he and his partner were aware that the first individual had spent approximately six months in the county jail; in the six months that he was not in the jail, he had accumulated a bill of over \$100,000 in the smaller of the two downtown Reno hospitals. The second individual who the officers had tracked had come to the Reno area from out of state. Officer O'Bryan said many homeless individuals would "burn their bridges" in one area and move to another community to receive assistance in the new community. The second individual had accumulated a bill of over \$65,000 within a three-month period of time.

Officer O'Bryan reported that the first individual with the \$100,000 bill had been in downtown Reno in a homeless state for approximately 10 years. If a \$100,000 bill had been incurred at the smaller hospital, it seemed reasonable that at least the same amount would have been incurred at the larger downtown hospital. Officer O'Bryan contended that the individual had incurred at least \$200,000 in one year between both hospitals, although it was more likely that the larger hospital took the heavier burden. Officer O'Bryan commented that if that \$200,000 estimate was multiplied over a 10-year period, it would become very apparent how much only one individual would cost the community.

Officer O'Bryan said that because he was in law enforcement it was not his job to diagnose those individuals, or determine what their illnesses were, but he did know that it cost the community over \$1 million not to treat those illnesses and to ignore the condition.

Officer O'Bryan said A.B. 175 was a small step forward to address the crisis in Las Vegas and to avert a crisis statewide.

Theresa Brushfield, representing Adult Care Association of Nevada, identified herself and testified in support of A.B. 175. Ms. Brushfield stated the Adult Care Association of Nevada was comprised of 68 mental health residential facilities. The Association had asked numerous times for an increase in their contracted price for the care of clients in a mental health residential facility. Currently, a facility received \$911 per month, per client, according to Ms. Brushfield. The private facilities could no longer care for clients at the rate of \$30 per day because they were required to provide 24-hour care and there had to be 2 people on staff during the day. The facilities also provided transportation to doctor's appointments, laboratory tests, and taught life care

skills. Ms. Brushfield said everyone in a facility had a plan that had been developed by a case manager which had to be followed every day.

Ms. Brushfield said if a facility had six residents it would receive \$5,400 per month from the State. An employee in a state hospital at the lowest level would receive \$10.50 per hour. If \$10.50 an hour was the basis for 24 hour, 7-day per week, an employee would earn \$6,000 per month, and would not have to supply a home, transportation, or food.

Ms. Brushfield said the group operators knew they were breaking laws in the state because they could not pay the minimum wage of \$5.15 per hour for the caregiver, they did not have commercial insurance to transport clients, and they were not paying worker's compensation, all because they could not afford it. Ms. Brushfield said those people could not be cared for with such a small amount.

Ms. Brushfield reiterated that the facilities she was representing could not make it on \$30 per day, per client.

Ms. Leslie asked if the Adult Care Association of Nevada had participated in the A.B. 513 rate study that had been performed by the Department of Human Resources. She said it had been her understanding that the Association had chosen not to participate.

Ms. Brushfield replied that while she was not a mental health facility operator, at the time of the study she had been administrator for three residential facilities and she had never received any information regarding the study.

Ms. Leslie commented that she was very supportive of looking at the rate increases through the budget subcommittee, but the way it was done was through the rate study by the Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services, who made recommendations to the Legislature.

Ron Titus, Director, Administrative Office of the Courts, introduced himself and stated that the courts were in full support of A.B. 175 because it would aid the Clark County, Washoe County, and Carson City Mental Health Courts.

Sergeant Robert Roshak, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, introduced himself and testified in support of A.B. 175. Sergeant Roshak testified that currently his Department responded to approximately 100 calls per 24-hour day, dealing with the mentally ill. Anything that could be done to help reduce those calls and allow officers to provide services to the public would be greatly appreciated, according to Sergeant Roshak.

[Exhibit B](#), "Reno Gazette-Journal article, Proposed triage center would focus attention on mentally ill," and [Exhibit C](#), "Letter dated April 13, 2005, to Assemblyman Morse Arberry from Judge John S. McGroarty and Judge Jackie Glass, Eighth Judicial District Court," were submitted for the consideration of the Committee.

Chairman Arberry asked if there was anyone who wanted to speak in support of, or in opposition to, A.B. 175.

Chairman Arberry closed the hearing on A.B. 175 and opened the hearing on A.B. 289.

Assembly Bill 289: Requires Administrator of Office of Historic Preservation of Department of Cultural Affairs to establish stewardship program for protection of cultural resources. (BDR 33-554)

Harry Mortenson, Assemblyman, Clark County, District 42, identified himself for the record and testified in support of A.B. 289.

Assemblyman Mortenson said that A.B. 289 established a core of unpaid volunteers who would work under the State Historic and Preservation Office.

Mr. Mortenson commented that, 6 years ago at the Desert Research Institute in Las Vegas, 40 people met representing about 20 "stakeholders" and this group was presently crafting a BDR that had been received from the Legal Division of the Legislative Counsel Bureau. Mr. Mortenson stated those people had taken four hours to analyze the BDR word for word, phrase by phrase, in an attempt to make it as effective as possible.

Mr. Mortenson explained that the stakeholders were a varied group that included the Nevada Archeological Society, the ArcheoNevada, the Outside Las Vegas Foundation, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Forest Service, Native Americans, the Nevada Department of Wildlife, the Archeology Conservancy, the Southern Nevada Rock Art Foundation, the State Historical Preservation Office, the Arizona State Stewardship Program, and the Las Vegas Springs Preserve, among others. Mr. Mortenson said those groups were anxious to get the stewardship program implemented, and represented tens of thousands of people in southern Nevada who wanted the program to be successful.

Ronald M. James, State Historic Preservation Officer, Historian, State Historic Preservation Office, identified himself for the record and testified in support of A.B. 289. Mr. James stated he appreciated the opportunity to testify on the bill which answered two needs. There had been a longstanding interest in having a site stewardship program in Nevada and, according to Mr. James, there was a great need because of all the public lands.

Mr. James said another need was to have a southern Nevada office of the State Historic Preservation Office and that could not be accomplished with existing resources. The State Historic Preservation Office tried to fulfill as many needs as possible. When the Office was created in 1977 there were eight employees on staff, and today there were still only eight people on staff, but the stewardship program could not be implemented without an additional person. Mr. James stated that, reluctantly, a fiscal note had been attached to A.B. 289.

Mr. James explained that while he was supportive of the concept of the stewardship program because of the two needs he had outlined, the Office had to remain nonpartisan about the fiscal note because it was not part of The Executive Budget.

Assemblywoman Giunchigliani asked if the fiscal note attached to A.B. 289 had been written by the State Historic Preservation Office. Mr. James replied that it had been.

Alice M. Baldrice, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, State Historic Preservation Office, identified herself for the record, and testified in support of A.B. 289.

Ms. Baldrica stated that the subject of a stewardship program had arisen time and again with members of the public in the southern Nevada area. In particular, citizens and organizations had been very concerned about the degradation of historic sites, archeological sites, and rock art sites in and around urban areas. The growth of population and the need for recreation on public lands had introduced a lot of people into areas which were in relatively pristine condition up until recent years. Ms. Baldrica said she prepared a historic preservation plan for the State every eight years, which identified threats to archeological sites as a major concern. Individuals responding to questionnaires sent out by the State Historic Preservation Office indicated that a statewide site stewardship program needed to be created.

Ms. Baldrica said there was a need for a coordinator to train volunteers. A number of people who worked for federal agencies and state agencies were interested in volunteering to monitor sites. They were not people who had any enforcement capabilities; they simply monitored sites on a monthly or quarterly basis to determine if any damage had been done to the sites. The volunteers would make reports to the property owners, to the federal land managing agencies, or the State land managing agencies as to any damage or problems. Ms. Baldrica said the stewardship program was a means of educating the public and utilizing the great body of senior citizens in southern Nevada who loved the desert and wanted to protect the resources.

The sole employee of the stewardship program would be the coordinator, trainer, and agency liaison, according to Ms. Baldrica. The program had been modeled after a very successful one in Arizona.

Assemblyman Seale asked the size and breakdown of the fiscal note, and where the program would be located.

Mr. James replied that the stewardship program office would be located in the Grant Sawyer Building or the Southern Nevada Museum. The first year, because it was a partial year of nine months, the total cost would be \$62,608. Mr. James said the second year, because it was a full 12-month year including inflation, the cost would be \$77,525 for one employee, in-state travel expenses, and operating expenses.

Mr. Seale asked if the site stewardship program was already in place in northern Nevada. Mr. James replied that it was not.

Mr. Seale asked if he was correct that the program was statewide, but headquartered in southern Nevada. Mr. James replied that was correct for two reasons. One was the need to have a southern Nevada office, and the other was that the greatest need was in the south because of urban encroachment into open space.

Assemblywoman Smith commented that when A.B. 289 had been heard in the Committee on Natural Resources they had heard a lot about the Arizona program. Mrs. Smith had e-mailed her sister-in-law, who was the public information officer for the Arizona Parks Department, to ask her about their program. Mrs. Smith's sister-in-law had replied that it was a wonderful program with over 700 volunteers, but she had also said the critical component was the person who directed and managed the volunteers because it was a very large undertaking.

Joe Johnson, Toiyabe Chapter, Sierra Club, introduced himself and commented that the Sierra Club members strongly supported A.B. 289.

Assemblyman Mortenson explained that the Committee had been presented with [Exhibit D](#), a letter from Preserve Nevada, [Exhibit E](#), a letter from the Muddy River Regional Environmental Impact Alleviation Committee (MRREIAC), and [Exhibit F](#), an e-mail from Jack and Elaine Holmes. Mr. Mortenson said the letters represented just a small portion of the support for [A.B. 289](#).

Mr. Mortenson commented that [Exhibit D](#) was a letter from former United States Senator Richard Bryan, who had supported the site stewardship program every year that it had been proposed.

Mr. Mortenson stated that one item Ms. Baldrice had not mentioned was the paleontological sites. In southern Nevada, for example, there existed a world-class mammoth site, with bones of approximately 40 mammoths sticking out of the ground. Mr. Mortenson said the site eventually needed to be excavated but day by day the bones were being stolen and the site was being vandalized.

Chairman Arberry asked if there was anyone who wanted to speak in support of or in opposition to [A.B. 289](#).

Chairman Arberry declared the hearing on [A.B. 289](#) closed, and opened the hearing on [A.B. 310](#).

[Assembly Bill 310](#): Makes appropriation for establishment of 2-1-1 telephone number in certain areas of State to provide residents with information concerning services available to children and families. (BDR S-829)

Assemblywoman Debbie Smith, Washoe County, District 30, introduced herself and testified in support of [A.B. 310](#).

Mrs. Smith stated that the bill would provide funding in the amount of \$200,000 to establish a 2-1-1 telephone line in parts of Nevada. Mrs. Smith said she believed one of the greatest things about the work performed in the Legislature was constituent service and being among constituents to learn what their concerns and problems were. One of the concerns she was always hearing at meetings or door-to-door contact, according to Mrs. Smith, was that people did not know where to look for help or assistance.

Mrs. Smith explained that last December she had been at a meeting of grandparents raising grandchildren and when she left the meeting she had realized that the common theme had been that there was no central mechanism for people to investigate assistance programs and resources.

Mrs. Smith said she had submitted the bill draft request for a referral line for the needs of children and families and as soon as she had, she began receiving phone calls that informed her there was already a group working on the 2-1-1 line that was a nationwide effort. Over the past few months Mrs. Smith had been working with the group that had been working on the 2-1-1 line, and she said her goal was still the same, to have one line people could call in Nevada to be referred for services. [A.B. 310](#) would provide interim funding to get the 2-1-1 line up and running in some parts of Nevada. It would not function in some of the rural parts of the state because of the nature of the telephone lines.

Mrs. Smith stated she had been working with Bob Bass from SBC and was very grateful for the help in attempting to formulate the 2-1-1 line. Mrs. Smith said

she was still working on the budget and trying to put the funding together. She was most proud of the fact that there would be private matching funds to any State funding received. A great deal of effort had been expended in keeping the cost down to the minimum level until federal legislation was passed to put the entire 2-1-1 program in place.

Mrs. Smith said she would probably have to come back before the Committee one more time because the details were still being worked out, although all the phone lines had been figured out, but there were still details of staffing to be considered. Currently, Crisis Call Center would be used because it was already in place in Reno, and Help of Southern Nevada in Clark County. The Crisis Call Center and Help of Southern Nevada would receive an upgraded database in order to refer the caller to the necessary departments or agencies for assistance.

Chairman Arberry said that was going to be his question, "Who was going to be on the other end." He wondered how long the Crisis Call Center and Help of Southern Nevada would handle the function each day.

Mrs. Smith mentioned that Senator Dina Titus had co-sponsored A.B. 310 with her because the 2-1-1 had been part of her committee's work. Senator Titus had also been anxious to see something happen immediately and not have to wait a few years while attempting to gain enough funding to implement the original 2-1-1 lines, according to Mrs. Smith. The calls would be answered during the normal business hours of a regular work day; because they were not crisis calls it would be a referral line.

Mary Liveratti, Deputy Director, Department of Human Resources, identified herself for the record and testified in support of A.B. 310.

Ms. Liveratti stated one of the major problems people had was not knowing where to call for information and assistance. The Division for Aging Services did a study of family caregivers and the number one item that came out of the study was that people knew there were services available but they did not know how to access those services.

Ms. Liveratti pointed out that 2-1-1 was an easy number to remember, similar to 9-1-1, but as had been discussed, it was not an emergency number. The number could be used not only to help people with information referrals on an everyday basis, but also during times of crisis. Ms. Liveratti said during the hurricane recovery in Florida last year, 2-1-1 had been essential for people to learn about available resources.

Ms. Liveratti said in October 2002, a strategic plan for people with disabilities and another for senior citizens was assembled. Both of those plans mentioned that a system was needed for a single point of entry or "no wrong door," so that no matter where people went they could get the information they needed with access through the 2-1-1 system. In September 2003, the Department of Human Resources, in unison with the United Way organizations in the state, developed a plan to create a coalition of people to start planning how 2-1-1 could be brought to Nevada. It was a statewide coalition because it was important that people realized 2-1-1 was not something that the public sector should be doing 100 percent. It was a partnership between businesses, nonprofit agencies, United Way, and other groups with state and local governments. Ms. Liveratti said it should not be that government was the only one at the table, or the only one in charge. She believed the program needed to have local input.

The coalition was established in September 2003, and included the United Ways of both southern and northern Nevada, the United Way of the Great Basin, the United Way of the Colorado River region, the United Way of the Pioneer Territory, the Division for Aging Services, the Sanford Center for Aging, Washoe County Senior Center, Clark County Social Services, Help of Southern Nevada, the Nevada Public Health Foundation, The Nevada Disability, Advocacy, and Law Center, Crisis Call Center, Sierra Pacific Power, SBC, Sprint, and the Nevada Telephone Association. Ms. Liveratti stated all those organizations had been involved in the planning process. In April 2004, the United Way of Southern Nevada submitted to the Task Force for the Fund for a Healthy Nevada a grant application to help support the planning efforts. The coalition was awarded \$140,000 for a two-year planning process which allowed them to hire, under contract, a 2-1-1 statewide manager. Ms. Liveratti stated John Miller from the Southern Nevada United Way was present today. Mr. Miller was not the original manager. The original manager had resigned in December 2004. Mr. Miller had been manager since March 2005. Ms. Liveratti said Mr. Miller was new to the effort, but brought with him a lot of expertise.

Ms. Liveratti said there were no federal funds earmarked specifically for 2-1-1, however, there was a bill referred to as Calling for 2-1-1 that had received strong bipartisan support, including support from Senator Elizabeth Dole and Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton. That bill would authorize \$150 million to assist states with implementing or sustaining their 2-1-1 system statewide, but it would require a 50 percent match. If the federal funding became available and funds became available through A.B. 310, the state funding could be used to match the federal funding.

Ms. Liveratti said there had been a meeting with Senator Dina Titus in her office on March 15, 2005, to discuss the future of 2-1-1. Everyone involved eventually wanted a 24 hours per day, 7 days per week system; however, most people believed it needed to be phased in. When 9-1-1 had been established it was not statewide, it had been implemented in towns and cities and was then expanded as people could develop the money to support that system.

Chairman Arberry stated the biggest concern he had was for people with very limited income or no income, who might not have a telephone or had their telephone disconnected because of the inability to pay. He noted they were probably the people needing the 2-1-1 service the most.

Ms. Liveratti stated it would be their hope that people would call before their service was disconnected, but people would go to a neighbor's house to call or an apartment manager would call for them. People often used friends' or neighbors' telephones for message phones, which would then allow them to be connected with emergency services to allow the telephone to be turned back on, or their utilities to be turned back on. Ms. Liveratti stated there were a number of programs to assist people, but people were not aware of how to access that information.

Chairman Arberry said most people did not know their phone was disconnected until they picked it up. He said it was food for thought as to how people who lived on the edge financially could be helped.

Assemblywoman Gansert stated she believed this was a very good idea, because she had a grandmother who had raised grandchildren and the present system was extremely confusing to people. Whether it was a grandparent or

other people who needed services, it would be nice to have one line from which to receive the correct direction.

Chairman Arberry asked if there was a breakdown available of how the funds would be used.

Ms. Liveratti said most of the breakdown was completed, and the majority of the money was going to the actual cost of the 2-1-1 system. The coalition would be returning to the Committee with the complete budget at a later time.

Chairman Arberry asked what would happen if no federal funding materialized.

Ms. Smith said the plan was currently set up with the basic minimum and if there was no federal funding it could not be utilized 24/7, or be expanded statewide.

Ms. Liveratti informed the Committee that currently approximately one-third of the nation had 2-1-1 systems without federal funding. They funded their systems through a variety of methods, such as local community dollars, foundation money, and United Way support, to name a few. Ms. Liveratti said there were many funding sources that were being utilized currently, because 2-1-1 systems were currently up and running and there were approximately 33 million Americans with access in their states.

Chairman Arberry commented that he did not want to give the impression that he was against the program, he wanted to make sure that funding was in place.

Robert Desruisseaux, Chairman, Strategic Plan Accountability Committee (SPAC), and representing the Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living (NNCIL), introduced himself for the record and testified in support of A.B. 310.

Mr. Desruisseaux stated that through the process of developing the strategic plan, which began in 2001, and with the participation of 180 individuals from the professional community that served people with disabilities, advocates, families, and individuals, it had become abundantly clear that there was a lack of access to information.

Mr. Desruisseaux explained that services throughout the state were provided in a "patchwork quilt" type of delivery system. There was no link from one type of service to another. The 2-1-1 service would provide a way to link those services together for the user. Mr. Desruisseaux said when he first became disabled in 1990, he had spent six years attempting to find the services he needed. It had been a very complicated and cumbersome process to get back on his feet.

Mr. Desruisseaux addressed the question of what an individual with telephone service that had been disconnected could do to access the information, and said the 2-1-1 service would provide information so that type of thing would not happen. The NNCIL received calls on a daily basis from individuals who had been attempting to locate resources and assistance for quite some time. The 2-1-1 system was a way to avert that problem and distribute the information to individuals before a crisis occurred, according to Mr. Desruisseaux. He said he could not emphasize enough the need for a one-stop means of providing information to individuals. He also noted that in some states 2-1-1 had the capability of going beyond just information and referral. At some point the 2-1-1 system could grow into a central location for applying for services which would eliminate reapplying again and again with various programs and agencies.

According to Mr. Desruisseaux, the 2-1-1 system was capable of much more than what would be available at the beginning.

Chairman Arberry asked if any of the start-up money would be used for advertising the service.

Mrs. Smith replied that in the beginning there would be only enough money to get the program running. Outside funding would have to be obtained for advertising. Mrs. Smith stressed that sitting through the committee meetings and learning about the many services available that she had not been aware of had convinced her even more of the benefit of the 2-1-1 service.

Margaret McMillan, Sprint, identified herself for the record and commented regarding individuals who had their telephone service disconnected. She wanted to make sure the Committee was aware of a program available through Sprint for low-income people. The program currently had 27,000 people enrolled. It was called the Lifeline service and was available for anyone at 175 percent of the poverty level. The service cost \$5.77 per month with no taxes, according to Ms. McMillan. The Lifeline service was coordinated with the Department of Human Services and Sprint was notified when anyone entered an assistance program with the State because they automatically qualified.

Ms. McMillan commented that the problem was notifying senior citizens about the Lifeline service because many were just in a low income category, and often not enrolled in programs that would automatically qualify them. Sprint advertised in newspapers and worked with senior groups to get the word out. Ms. McMillan said the 2-1-1 service might help as well.

Mr. Marvel asked how much the Lifeline service cost Sprint. Ms. McMillan replied that Sprint lost approximately \$4 per line on the Lifeline service.

Mr. Marvel asked if Sprint would lose money on the 2-1-1 service and Ms. McMillan replied no, because that service was a tariffed rate.

Mr. Seale asked for an explanation of what Sprint's involvement in the 2-1-1 service would be.

Ms. McMillan explained that Sprint had 16 central offices, or switching centers, in Las Vegas. Each of those centers would have to be supplied with the correct equipment and when a 2-1-1 call came in it would be processed from the center.

Mr. Denis asked if someone had been having a difficult time and had accrued a large bill with Sprint, would that bill have to be eliminated before they could enroll in the Lifeline service. Ms. McMillan responded that if a person qualified under the 175 percent of poverty income guidelines, or if they were on some type of state assistance, they were immediately transferred to the Lifeline service. If they already had service with Sprint arrangements would be made to pay off the owed balance.

Bob Bass, SBC, introduced himself and stated his support for A.B. 310.

Barry Gold, Associate State Director, American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), introduced himself and testified in support of A.B. 310. Mr. Gold stated that a very interesting benefit that other states had received when they

implemented the 2-1-1 service was that there was a decline in calls to the 9-1-1 emergency lines.

Chairman Arberry closed the hearing on A.B. 310.

Chairman Arberry recessed the meeting at 9:29 a.m. and reconvened at 9:38 a.m.

Chairman Arberry opened the hearing on A.B. 414.

Assembly Bill 414: Makes appropriation for expenses relating to establishment of Transitional Housing Task Force. (BDR S-968)

Assemblywoman Kathy McClain, Clark County, District 15, introduced herself and testified in support of A.B. 414. Ms. McClain stated that the bill was a request for an appropriation to the Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence, but the bill had been written requesting the appropriation for the Department of Human Resources. Ms. McClain said A.B. 414 would need to be amended.

Ms. McClain commented that one of the things she was passionate about was domestic violence laws. Ms. McClain noted that over the years much progress had been made in that area. One of the biggest problems was that when a domestic violence victim left a shelter, child care and housing were almost impossible to find, and if they could be found, they were often impossible to afford.

Ms. McClain said women tended to stay in violent relationships for the children and to keep a roof over their heads. It was also difficult to go to work if there were concerns about child care.

A.B. 414 would establish a task force on transitional housing and child care as well as providing seed money to assist some of the victims to establish a new home for themselves and their families.

Ms. McClain introduced Paula Berkley and Nancy Hart, representing the Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence (NNADV), to explain the program in detail.

Paula Berkley, NNADV, stated that Susan Meuschke, Executive Director, NNADV, sent her apologies because she was unable to attend the meeting today. The NNADV submitted a packet of materials ([Exhibit G](#)) to the Committee.

Ms. Berkley said the concept of transitional housing for domestic violence victims came from the annual meeting of domestic violence program professionals, law enforcement, and district attorneys. Ms. Berkley stated the idea had been published in the NNADV's newsletter; Assemblywoman McClain had read it and had taken action.

The NNADV had received an initial grant from the federal government and wanted to create a task force to investigate the available programs in the state, how they worked, and what their strengths and weaknesses were.

Ms. Berkley said she had consulted with the executive director of the Committee to Aid Abused Women (CAAW), the oldest domestic violence program in the state, and asked how that program handled transitional housing. CAAW had some apartments which had been used for a few years as transitional housing. Most domestic violence programs had emergency housing,

where victims could stay for up to 90 days, according to Ms. Berkley, but if the victim had no place to go after 90 days, many times they returned to their abuser.

Ms. Berkley related that since the CAAW only had a few apartments available for transitional housing they had been forced to narrow their focus so they had decided to give the apartments to victims of domestic violence who had children and wanted to return to school. Those families were allowed to remain in transitional housing for up to three years.

Chairman Arberry asked if the families could live in transitional housing free of charge.

Ms. Berkley replied that the families had to pay rent and also had to provide some "sweat equity."

Chairman Arberry asked if the transitional housing being addressed by A.B. 414 would be the type of housing for domestic violence victims that was hidden from the abuser.

Ms. Berkley replied that while the housing would be as low-key as possible, it would not be secret, so the selection of the place would be very important.

Ms. Berkley continued and said the transitional program worked very well but it was very expensive. The proposed task force would determine if there were intermediate steps that could be taken while building the program and then access federal funds for the long-term housing. Ms. Berkley said there were federal funds available and noted that \$18,000 would be used each year for matching dollars.

Assemblywoman Leslie requested clarification of what \$18,000 in seed money would be used for. Ms. Berkley explained that two pilot projects were being considered in order to determine what worked and to set up protocols in a handbook form.

Ms. Leslie asked if the money was for staff or housing.

Nancy Hart, volunteer, Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence, responded that the \$18,000 seed money could be used for vouchers, rental assistance, or child care vouchers; it would be focused on direct assistance as opposed to staff.

Ms. McClain commented that she had encouraged the NNADV to request more funding, but they had assured her \$25,000 would be enough.

Ms. Berkley said approximately four years ago the NNADV had received \$40,000 to work with the Welfare Division to develop a curriculum to teach intake workers how to recognize domestic violence and effectively refer it to other agencies and programs. The program was developed, all the workers were trained, and it was rated the best training program in the Welfare Division by the intake workers. Ms. Berkley said the reason she had related that story was because if the NNADV said the organization was going to do something, they would do it.

Mr. Denis asked how the NNADV would be working with other nonprofit groups that provided similar services.

Ms. Berkley replied that it was important to ascertain what services were already in place, add the resources and expertise of the NNADV, and make the whole stronger. Mr. Denis commented that working together usually meant accomplishing more.

Mr. Denis inquired about the possible federal funds. Ms. Berkley replied there was specific domestic violence funding available, but matching money was required before application could be made and A.B. 414 would allow the NNADV to do that.

Chairman Arberry closed the hearing on A.B. 414 and opened the hearing on A.B. 524.

Assembly Bill 524: Makes various changes concerning Fund for a Healthy Nevada and provision of prescription drugs and pharmaceutical services by this State. (BDR 40-169)

Mike Willden, Director, Department of Human Resources, introduced himself and testified in support of A.B. 524. Mr. Willden stated that A.B. 524 was a Department bill to amend the Senior Rx statutes. The bill basically performed three functions; it changed the administration percentage from 3 percent to 5 percent, it allowed the Senior Rx Program to take advantage of the new Medicare Part D, the Medicare Modernization Act pharmacy, and made minor technical corrections in how the bill was operated. Mr. Willden said on January 1, 2005, the Senior Rx Program had been changed from the insured model to one where the State had taken over the program and contracted with a Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM), who was now working directly with the State. That had changed a number of administrative costs.

The "Proposed Amendment to A.B. 524" ([Exhibit H](#)), was submitted to the Committee. Mr. Willden said when the concept had been presented to the Task Force for The Fund for a Healthy Nevada and permission had been requested to amend the 3 percent cost to 5 percent they were supportive, but only if the percentage was changed on the Senior Rx and not on the other Tobacco Fund programs. The way the bill was still written the administration costs were changed on all the Tobacco Fund programs and the Department was attempting to change the percentage on the Senior Rx Program and not on any other programs.

Barry Gold, Associate State Director for Advocacy, AARP Nevada, read the following testimony into the record:

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee. For the record my name is Barry Gold. I am the AARP Nevada Associate State Director for Advocacy. AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization for people age 50 and older. We provide information and education; advocate on legislative, consumer, and legal issues; and assist members to serve their communities.

AARP Nevada supports A.B. 524 that revises provisions of the Fund for a Healthy Nevada regarding the provision of prescription drugs and pharmaceutical services for senior citizens.

AARP Nevada is engaged in an advocacy campaign we call "A Prescription for Nevada" that is centered on the affordability and

accessibility of prescription drugs. A.B. 524 is a critical component of this campaign.

This bill will provide the Department of Human Resources with the necessary additional resources to administer the Senior Rx Program and for the Aging Services Division to administer the Independence for Seniors grant program.

This bill will authorize the Department to coordinate benefits for seniors enrolled in both Medicare and Senior Rx to maximize coverage under both programs while taking full advantage of federal funding for prescriptions drugs and pharmaceuticals services.

A.B. 524 provides for approval by the Interim Finance Committee of the Department's plan for coordinating the state programs with the Medicare Part D benefit before the plan is implemented.

Availability and affordability of prescription drugs was rated as a high priority state legislative issue by 90 percent of Nevada AARP members surveyed in our 2004 Member Opinion Survey. AARP Nevada supports A.B. 524 as it is a prescription that is good for Nevada. We will continue to be a voice for our more than 282,000 members on legislative and regulatory issues related to quality of life concerns.

Mr. Denis questioned the use of the word "providing" on page 3, line 42, of A.B. 524.

Ms. McClain explained that the original Senior Rx Program had been an insurance-based program. Over the years the Tobacco Fund had been paying directly for the cost of the program through the use of a Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM). She said she believed it was basically cleanup language to remove the insurance concept.

Mr. Denis said he understood, but his concern was whether the State was paying for the prescription drugs or for the service.

Mr. Willden explained that the program paid for the drugs, but the senior participants paid a co-pay of \$10 or \$25 depending on whether the drug was generic or a brand name. The pharmacies billed the PBM, who paid the bills, and the State reimbursed the PBM.

Chairman Arberry declared the hearing on A.B. 524 closed and opened the hearing on A.J.R. 3.

Assembly Joint Resolution 3: Proposes to amend Nevada Constitution to revise provisions governing certain constitutional officers. (BDR C-947)

Assemblyman Bob Seale, Clark County, District 21, introduced himself and testified in support of A.J.R. 3.

Mr. Seale noted that this legislation had been introduced on numerous occasions and 10 years ago had actually passed through the Assembly and the Senate. Mr. Seale said he had offered an amendment to A.J.R. 3 in cooperation with Assemblywoman Giunchigliani.

Mr. Seale said there had been an argument about whether the Treasurer's Office be rolled into the Controller's Office, or the Controller's Office rolled into the Treasurer's Office. Mr. Seale said in his amendment both the Treasurer and Controller would be eliminated and the duties of both offices would be transferred to a new constitutional officer called the Secretary of Finance. The Secretary of Finance would appoint a Treasurer and a Controller, and those people were already in place. The Chief Deputy Treasurer, John Adkins, would presumably serve in that position and the Chief Deputy Controller, Kim Huys, would presumably serve as the Controller, according to Mr. Seale.

Mr. Seale said the plan made a great deal of sense because the State got what it needed in those positions, which was someone with the proper education, experience, and ethical standards. Mr. Seale continued and said that both people who presently served as Chief Deputy Treasurer and Chief Deputy Controller were certified public accountants (CPA) and possessed those qualifications.

Mr. Seale stated that combining the offices of the Treasurer and the Controller would save approximately \$1.5 million.

Ms. Giunchigliani commented for clarification that the amendment had been on the Assembly Floor and A.J.R. 3 had been referred to the Committee prior to the amendment being added. The Committee on Elections, Procedures, and Ethics had voted to change the title to Secretary of Finance.

Mr. Seale said he would provide a copy of the proposed amendment to the Committee.

Mr. Seale continued and said the effective date for combining of the offices was 2010, which would be at the end of the next elected official's term. The Treasurer and the Controller would be eliminated and the new Secretary of Finance would be installed in 2010.

Chairman Arberry remarked that throughout the country every state had a Treasurer and a Controller and he wondered about the new category of Secretary of Finance and whether Nevada would be the first state to have such an office.

Mr. Seale replied that Nevada would not be the first state to have a Secretary of Finance, on the contrary there were several others. The preponderance of elected officials nationwide were Treasurers, as there were 38 state Treasurers in the United States.

Mr. Seale stated that one of the arguments against the change was a loss of checks and balances. Mr. Seale maintained that checks and balances was not the issue. Checks and balances, according to Mr. Seale, had to do with the separation between the Legislative Branch, the Judicial Branch, and the Executive Branch. The real issue, in Mr. Seale's opinion, was internal control and safeguarding the monies of the state of Nevada and its people.

Mr. Seale said that in the private sector a chief financial officer was a common occurrence and a treasurer and controller reported to the chief financial officer, which provided adequate internal controls. Mr. Seale pointed out that the State had more controls in place than had been available when the office was first established, such as the Legislative Audit Division.

Mr. Seale informed the Committee that in the mid-1920s the Treasurer and Controller had conspired together to embezzle a significant amount of money, a year's worth of the General Fund. The argument that having the Treasurer and Controller positions separated in order to prevent a loss of dollars did not hold up, according to Mr. Seale.

Mr. Seale said he was convinced, with the systems that were in place, and the continual strengthening of those systems, they were more than adequate to protect the people of Nevada.

Chairman Arberry asked what assurances there were that the Secretary of Finance would not embezzle funds from the State.

Mr. Seale replied that any time you had people in those positions who decided to steal money, it became difficult, but it did not change because they were elected or appointed. Past history had proven that although the offices were separate, the failures still occurred.

Patricia D. Cafferata, Esq., Attorney at Law, introduced herself and testified in opposition to A.J.R. 3.

Ms. Cafferata stated she was a former Nevada State Treasurer, Assemblywoman for southwest Reno, and former District Attorney for Lander, Lincoln, and Esmeralda Counties.

Ms. Cafferata said she believed part of the problem was that people were unaware of what duties the Treasurer performed, or what duties the Controller performed, and both offices performed entirely different functions.

Ms. Cafferata explained that the State Treasurer was the office that received the money and placed it in the bank account. She contended the Treasurer could not take over the power of writing the checks, because the State Controller had the checkbook. When the two positions signed the checks that was how the money was spent, however, with only one person in charge there was more opportunity to embezzle money.

Ms. Cafferata said that internal controls still needed to be in place even if electronic accounting was being used. Today, most embezzlement committed in public treasuries was committed with electronic funds, according to Ms. Cafferata.

Ms. Cafferata said Assemblyman Seale talked about saving money, and while she had not seen his figures, she believed if a larger State agency was created, with the necessity of hiring additional personnel, there could be no savings. Additionally, the State would be paying an expert, someone with an accounting degree, which would be more expensive than paying an elected official.

Ms. Cafferata said she had now heard the argument that the State needed an expert for the position and believed the same argument could be made for the Governor. The Governor ran one of the largest entities in the state, controlled a huge budget, employed more people than most private corporations, and he was not required to have any special expertise, according to Ms. Cafferata.

Ms. Cafferata stated that if the State Controller was deemed to need expert skills, perhaps the *Nevada Constitution* should be amended to require qualifications beyond being 25 years old and a resident of the state.

Ms. Cafferata said she did not understand why elected offices should be abolished, as elected officers were accountable to the people. Ms. Cafferata emphasized that A.J.R. 3 had been a bad idea the first time it was proposed, and it was still a bad idea; she urged the Committee to vote no on the bill.

Chairman Arberry declared the hearing on A.J.R. 3 closed.

Chairman Arberry asked the Committee to consider introduction of the following bill draft request:

- BDR S-1296 – Requires the Department of Personnel to add a step to the pay plan for classified employees. (A.B. 556)

ASSEMBLYMAN MARVEL MOVED FOR COMMITTEE
INTRODUCTION OF BDR S-1296.

ASSEMBLYMAN SEALE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblywoman Giunchigliani was not
present for the vote.)

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Assembly Bill 20 (1st Reprint): Revises provisions governing issuance of general obligation bonds of State of Nevada to support program to provide grants for water conservation and capital improvements to certain water systems. (BDR 30-753)

Mark Stevens, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, explained that A.B. 20 involved the issuance of general obligation bonds for water conservation capital improvements. Funding would be supported by state property taxes and would increase the bonding authority of \$125 million and allow old issues to be reissued at the new rate.

ASSEMBLYMAN MARVEL MOVED DO PASS A.B. 20 AS
AMENDED.

ASSEMBLYMAN HETTRICK SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblywoman Giunchigliani was not
present for the vote.)

* * * * *

Assembly Bill 80 (1st Reprint): Revises provisions relating to wells. (BDR 48-982)

Mr. Stevens explained that A.B. 80 had a fiscal note in its original form, but the 1st Reprint had eliminated it, therefore, no fiscal impact remained.

ASSEMBLYMAN MARVEL MOVED DO PASS A.B. 80 AS
AMENDED.

ASSEMBLYMAN HETTRICK SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblywoman Giunchigliani was not
present for the vote.)

* * * * *

Assembly Bill 167 (1st Reprint): Authorizes acquisition of municipal securities issued by certain wastewater authorities. (BDR 20-799)

Mr. Stevens explained that A.B. 167 allowed the issuance of municipal securities by certain wastewater authorities.

Mr. Seale asked if the bill would allow use of the bond bank. Mr. Stevens replied that the county or the state would be authorized to use the bond bank.

ASSEMBLYMAN SEALE MOVED DO PASS A.B. 167 AS AMENDED.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN LESLIE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblywoman Giunchigliani was not present for the vote.)

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Chairman Arberry recessed the meeting at 10:22 a. m. to the call of the Chair. The meeting was later adjourned on the Floor of the Assembly.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Anne Bowen
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Assemblyman Morse Arberry Jr., Chairman

DATE: _____

<u>EXHIBITS</u>			
Committee Name: <u>Committee on Ways and Means</u>			
Date: <u>April 15, 2005</u>		Time of Meeting: <u>8:00 a.m.</u>	
Bill	Exhibit	Witness / Agency	Description
	A		Agenda
A.B. 175	B	Reno Police Department	Reno Gazette-Journal article dated 1-30-05
A.B. 175	C	Eighth Judicial District Court	Letter dated April 13, 2005 from Judge John S. McGroarty and Judge Jackie Glass
A.B. 289	D	Assemblyman Harry Mortenson	Letter from former Senator Richard Bryan
A.B. 289	E	Assemblyman Harry Mortenson	Letter from MRREIAC dated 4-4-05
A.B. 289	F	Assemblyman Harry Mortenson	E-mail from Jack and Elaine Holmes dated 4-14-05
A.B. 414	G	Paula Berkley	Packet of materials from Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence
A.B. 524	H	Department of Human Resources	Amendment to A.B. 524